

# SAFEGUARDS

## CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

NO. 148/13 AUGUST 2013

## FRANCE EXTENDS RESTRICTION OF FORMAMIDE IN TOY PUZZLE MATS

France recently extended the temporary restriction of formamide in toy puzzle mats. The extension period is for a further 12 months and took effect on 1 August 2013.

In December 2010, Belgium and France announced the removal of toy puzzle mats from shelves due to excessive quantities of formamide; a substance classified as reprotoxic (toxic to reproduction)<sup>1</sup>.

In July 2011, France restricted formamide in toy puzzle mats temporarily. This temporary restriction recognised the use of one of three designated methods and their corresponding limits for demonstration of compliance. The restriction was however valid until July 2012<sup>2</sup>.

In August 2012, France extended the temporary restriction of formamide in toy puzzle mats for a period of 12 months; extending the validity period from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013<sup>3</sup>. This new law restricted formamide content to no more than 200 mg/kg.

On 4 August 2013, Decree of 1 August 2013 was published in the France Official Gazette to extend the temporary restriction of formamide in toy puzzle mats for another year; from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014<sup>4</sup>. The limit of no more than 200 mg/kg remains unchanged.

Highlights of the new law are summarised in Table 1.

TABLE 1.

JURISDICTION	REGULATION	SUBSTANCE	SCOPE	REQUIREMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
France	Decree of 1 August 2013	Formamide	Toy puzzle mats	≤ 200 mg/kg	1 August 2013 (until 31 July 2014)



<sup>1</sup> [SafeGuardS 211/10](#)

<sup>2</sup> [SafeGuardS 142/11](#)

<sup>3</sup> [SafeGuardS 129/12](#) and references therein

<sup>4</sup> [Decree of 1 August 2013, Official Gazette No. 0180 of August 4, 2013](#)

Throughout our global network, SGS offers consultation and comprehensive testing services (physical/mechanical, chemical, flammability, electrical safety, etc) covering the full spectrum of international product safety and regulatory standards for a wide range of toys. Our laboratories are internationally recognized by major industry associations, accreditation bodies and authorities. With the largest global network of toy experts and testing facilities around the world (including 5 EU Notified Bodies and about 40 CPSC-Accepted Testing Laboratories), SGS is the partner to trust. For more information, please feel free to contact us or [visit our website](#).



---

**FOR ENQUIRIES:**

Global Competence Support Centre:  
[gcsc@sgs.com](mailto:gcsc@sgs.com)

HK– Hingwo Tsang Tel: +852 2774 7420 or  
[Hingwo.Tsang@sgs.com](mailto:Hingwo.Tsang@sgs.com)

Asia – Hong Kong,  
Tel: +852 2334 4481,  
[mktg.hk@sgs.com](mailto:mktg.hk@sgs.com)

Australasia – Perth.  
Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418  
[au.cts@sgs.com](mailto:au.cts@sgs.com)

Europe – London – UK.  
Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860  
[gb.cts.sales@sgs.com](mailto:gb.cts.sales@sgs.com)

Africa & Middle East – Turkey.  
Tel: +90 212 368 40 00  
[sgs.turkey@sgs.com](mailto:sgs.turkey@sgs.com)

Americas – USA.  
Tel: +1 973 575 5252  
[uscts.inquiries@sgs.com](mailto:uscts.inquiries@sgs.com)

[www.sgs.com/cgnr](http://www.sgs.com/cgnr)

© SGS Group Management SA – 2013 – All rights reserved - SGS is a registered trademark of SGS Group Management SA. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3<sup>rd</sup> parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3<sup>rd</sup> parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.